

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 5-A

WASHINGTON TIMES
29 July 1985

Wallop issues call for probe of KGB

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SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., has called for a public congressional investigation of Soviet KGB activities in the United States.

Such an investigation, he said, is "one of the more urgent tasks before the Congress today" and one that is long overdue.

"At a time when we have seen highly successful KGB attempts to penetrate our most secret defenses and technology, at a time when we know that the KGB has increased its 'active measures' program to unparalleled heights in this country, it is the duty of Congress to study the KGB and to educate the American public to the machinations in the U.S. and in other democracies of the KGB," the senator said.

He added that he was including East European and Cuban secret services as part of the KGB, which "has become a multinational corporation of espionage and 'active measures.'"

The senator's proposal was contained in a keynote address delivered at a weekend conference of Causa International at the Mayflower Hotel. The sessions were headed by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John R. Kelly.

Mr. Wallop, one of the Senate's leading experts on intelligence, has recently completed eight years as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The House of Representatives has its own select committee. Both congressional committees engage in oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency and

other U.S. intelligence services.

Mr. Wallop said that investigations by Congress of the CIA in the mid-1970s arose, among other reasons, from a concern that the agency might have infringed on the civil liberties of American citizens.

KGB activities in this country, such as eavesdropping on telephone conversations, are a clear violation of civil rights, which American citizens should enjoy without interference, Mr. Wallop stated.

In 1982 a Senate panel held hearings on Soviet "active measures," but they were limited in their scope and of relatively short duration. Investigations in 1975 by the Senate and House intelligence committees into CIA activities led to legislation restricting covert operations and revised Justice Department guidelines for U.S. intelligence activities.

The proposed Senate investigation, as Mr. Wallop sees it, would feature public testimony from U.S. intelligence officials, former KGB or other Soviet bloc intelligence officers who have defected to the West and scholars engaged in Soviet studies.

Mr. Wallop noted that, while probes into CIA activities are continuous and intensive, actions by the KGB have been largely ignored in Congress. Except for a handful of writers and academics, there are few newspapers and television networks that subject the KGB and its subsidiaries to the same scrutiny as they devote to U.S. intelligence agencies.